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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #8391-83  
21 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : [REDACTED] 25X1  
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1  
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT : East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

During the 16 November 1983 East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting representatives of the Intelligence Community discussed and made forecasts concerning the following subjects:

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## II. Burma -- Stability Forecast

Ne Win's health as it affects his ability to hold office will not present a problem for succession or stability over the next six months, although shuffling of government officials will continue. We expect Ne Win to step aside next year in favor of collective leadership by President San Yu and Defense Minister Kyaw Htin. The government may lean a bit more toward the West in order to improve the economy; no significant foreign policy changes are anticipated.

## III. Warning -- The Philippines

Is Prime Minister Virata emerging as a stronger successor candidate; is he a viable candidate to succeed Marcos?

Virata is a contender but he is politically weak under the current system. He has gained respect since Aquino's death by distancing himself from the assassination probe and he has strengthened his already good relations with both international bankers and businessmen. Virata is politically astute but has no base to speak of and no personal wealth with which to promote his candidacy among the technocrats. His support comes from other technocrats, but without military backing he has little chance of succeeding Marcos -- given the present vagueness of the succession process.

Virata's political future depends on actions by Marcos, which we do not expect, to strengthen and follow Constitutional procedures for succession, including naming a Vice President.

Thus the Imelda/Ver combination still appears to be the most likely victor in a succession struggle during the next six months.

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